

Introduction - Grade 3 English-Language Arts

The following released test questions are taken from the Grade 3 English-Language Arts Standards Test. This test is one of the California Standards Tests administered as part of the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program under policies set by the State Board of Education.

All questions on the California Standards Tests are evaluated by committees of content experts, including teachers and administrators, to ensure their appropriateness for measuring the California academic content standards in Grade 3 English-Language Arts. In addition to content, all items are reviewed and approved to ensure their adherence to the principles of fairness and to ensure no bias exists with respect to characteristics such as gender, ethnicity, and language.

This document contains released test questions from the California Standards Test forms in 2003. First on the pages that follow are lists of the standards assessed on the Grade 3 English-Language Arts Test. Next are released passages and test questions. Following the questions is a table that gives the correct answer for each question, the content standard that each question is measuring, and the year each question last appeared on the test.

The following table lists each strand/reporting cluster, the number of items that appear on the exam, and the number of released test questions that appear in this document.

STRAND/REPORTING CLUSTER	NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ON EXAM	NUMBER OF RELEASED TEST QUESTIONS
• Word Analysis	20	4
• Reading Comprehension	15	4
• Literary Response and Analysis	8	4
• Writing Strategies	9	2
• Written Conventions	13	2
TOTAL	65	16

In selecting test questions for release, three criteria are used: (1) the questions adequately cover a selection of the academic content standards assessed on the Grade 3 English-Language Arts Test; (2) the questions demonstrate a range of difficulty; and (3) the questions present a variety of ways standards can be assessed. These released test questions do not reflect all of the ways the standards may be assessed. Released test questions will not appear on future tests.

For more information about the California Standards Tests, visit the California Department of Education's Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/star/> or <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/resources.asp>.

READING

The Reading portion of the Grade 3 California English-Language Arts Standards Test has three strands/reporting clusters: Word Analysis, Reading Comprehension, and Literary Response and Analysis. Each of these strands/clusters is described below.

The Word Analysis Strand/Cluster

The following seven California English-Language Arts content standards are included in the Word Analysis strand/cluster and are represented in this booklet by four test questions for grade 3. These questions represent only some ways in which these standards may be assessed on the Grade 3 California English-Language Arts Standards Test.

3RW1.0	WORD ANALYSIS, FLUENCY, AND SYSTEMATIC VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT: Students understand the basic features of reading. They select letter patterns and know how to translate them into spoken language by using phonics, syllabication, and word parts. They apply this knowledge to achieve fluent oral and silent reading.
3RW1.1	Decoding and Word Recognition: Know and use complex word families when reading (e.g., -ight) to decode unfamiliar words.
3RW1.2	Decoding and Word Recognition: Decode regular multisyllabic words.
3RW1.4	Vocabulary and Concept Development: Use knowledge of antonyms, synonyms, homophones, and homographs to determine the meanings of words.
3RW1.5	Vocabulary and Concept Development: Demonstrate knowledge of levels of specificity among grade-appropriate words and explain the importance of these relations (e.g., dog/mammal/animal/living things).
3RW1.6	Vocabulary and Concept Development: Use sentence and word context to find the meaning of unknown words.
3RW1.7	Vocabulary and Concept Development: Use a dictionary to learn the meaning and other features of unknown words.
3RW1.8	Vocabulary and Concept Development: Use knowledge of prefixes (e.g., <i>un-</i> , <i>re-</i> , <i>pre-</i> , <i>bi-</i> , <i>mis-</i> , <i>dis-</i>) and suffixes (e.g., <i>-er</i> , <i>-est</i> , <i>-ful</i>) to determine the meaning of words.

Released Test Questions

English-Language Arts

3

The Reading Comprehension Strand/Cluster

The following seven California English-Language Arts content standards are included in the Reading Comprehension strand/cluster and are represented in this booklet by four test questions for grade 3. These questions represent only some ways in which these standards may be assessed on the Grade 3 California English-Language Arts Standards Test.

-
- 3RC2.0 READING COMPREHENSION:** Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. They draw upon a variety of comprehension strategies as needed (e.g., generating and responding to essential questions, making predictions, comparing information from several sources). The selections in *Recommended Readings in Literature, Kindergarten Through Grade Eight* illustrate the quality and complexity of the materials to be read by students. In addition to their regular school reading, by grade four, students read one-half million words annually, including a good representation of grade-level-appropriate narrative and expository text (e.g., classic and contemporary literature, magazines, newspapers, online information). In grade three, students make substantial progress toward this goal.
-
- 3RC2.1 Structural Features of Informational Materials:** Use titles, tables of contents, chapter headings, glossaries, and indexes to locate information in text.
-
- 3RC2.2 Comprehension and Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text:** Ask questions and support answers by connecting prior knowledge with literal information found in, and inferred from, the text.
-
- 3RC2.3 Comprehension and Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text:** Demonstrate comprehension by identifying answers in the text.
-
- 3RC2.4 Comprehension and Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text:** Recall major points in the text and make and modify predictions about forthcoming information.
-
- 3RC2.5 Comprehension and Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text:** Distinguish the main idea and supporting details in expository text.
-
- 3RC2.6 Comprehension and Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text:** Extract appropriate and significant information from the text, including problems and solutions.
-
- 3RC2.7 Comprehension and Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text:** Follow simple multiple-step written instructions (e.g., how to assemble a product or play a board game).
-

The Literary Response and Analysis Strand/Cluster

The following six California English-Language Arts content standards are included in the Literary Response and Analysis strand/cluster and are represented in this booklet by four test questions for grade 3. These questions represent only some ways in which these standards may be assessed on the Grade 3 California English-Language Arts Standards Test.

3RL3.0	LITERARY RESPONSE AND ANALYSIS: Students read and respond to a wide variety of significant works of children’s literature. They distinguish between the structural features of text and the literary terms or elements (e.g., theme, plot, setting, characters). The selections in <i>Recommended Readings in Literature, Kindergarten Through Grade Eight</i> illustrate the quality and complexity of the materials to be read by students.
3RL3.1	Structural Features of Literature: Distinguish common forms of literature (e.g., poetry, drama, fiction, nonfiction).
3RL3.2	Narrative Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text: Comprehend basic plots of classic fairy tales, myths, folktales, legends, and fables from around the world.
3RL3.3	Narrative Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text: Determine what characters are like by what they say or do and by how the author or illustrator portrays them.
3RL3.4	Narrative Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text: Determine the underlying theme or author’s message in fiction and nonfiction text.
3RL3.5	Narrative Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text: Recognize the similarities of sounds in words and rhythmic patterns (e.g., alliteration, onomatopoeia) in a selection.
3RL3.6	Narrative Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text: Identify the speaker or narrator in a selection.

Released Test Questions

English-Language Arts

3

WRITING

The Writing portion of the Grade 3 California English-Language Arts Standards Test has two strands/reporting clusters: Writing Strategies and Written Conventions. Each of these strands/clusters is described below.

The Writing Strategies Strand/Cluster

The following three California English-Language Arts content standards are included in the Writing Strategies strand/cluster and are represented in this booklet by two test questions for grade 3. These questions represent only some ways in which these standards may be assessed on the Grade 3 California English-Language Arts Standards Test.

-
- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 3WS1.0 | WRITING STRATEGIES: Students write clear and coherent sentences and paragraphs that develop a central idea. Their writing shows they consider the audience and purpose. Students progress through the stages of the writing process (e.g., pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing successive versions). |
|---------------|--|
-
- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 3WS1.1 | Organization and Focus: Create a single paragraph:
1) Develop a topic sentence;
2) Include simple supporting facts and details. |
|---------------|--|
-
- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 3WS1.3 | Research & Technology: Understand the structure and organization of various reference materials (e.g., dictionary, thesaurus, atlas, encyclopedia). |
|---------------|--|
-
- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 3WS1.4 | Evaluation and Revision: Revise drafts to improve the coherence and logical progression of ideas by using an established rubric. |
|---------------|---|
-

The Written Conventions Strand/Cluster

The following nine California English-Language Arts content standards are included in the Written Conventions strand/cluster and are represented in this booklet by two test questions for grade 3. These questions represent only some ways in which these standards may be assessed on the Grade 3 California English-Language Arts Standards Test.

3WC1.0 WRITTEN AND ORAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS: Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.

3WC1.1 Sentence Structure: Understand and be able to use complete and correct declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences in writing and speaking.

3WC1.2 Grammar: Identify subjects and verbs that are in agreement and identify and use pronouns, adjectives, compound words, and articles correctly in writing and speaking.

3WC1.3 Grammar: Identify and use past, present, and future verb tenses properly in writing and speaking.

3WC1.4 Grammar: Identify and use subjects and verbs correctly in speaking and writing simple sentences.

3WC1.5 Punctuation: Punctuate dates, city and state, and titles of books correctly.

3WC1.6 Punctuation: Use commas in dates, locations, and addresses and for items in a series.

3WC1.7 Capitalization: Capitalize geographical names, holidays, historical periods, and special events correctly.

3WC1.8 Spelling: Spell correctly one-syllable words that have blends, contractions, compounds, orthographic patterns (e.g., *qu*, consonant doubling, changing the ending of a word from *-y* to *-ies* when forming the plural), and common homophones (e.g., *hair-hare*).

3WC1.9 Spelling: Arrange words in alphabetic order.

Released Test Questions

English-Language Arts

3

Monkey Looks for Trouble

1 One fine day in Trinidad, an island in the West Indies, a woman walked along the road. From high in his treetop, Monkey watched her. He saw the large clay pot she was carrying. How alarmed he was when she tripped over a stone and dropped the pot! It broke into many pieces. It had been full of fluffy white cakes that scattered on the road.

2 “Oh, boy, have I ever got trouble now! I have so much trouble!” exclaimed the lady. She tried to gather the cakes in her colorful skirts, but they kept spilling out. Soon she gave up and left.



3 Monkey scurried down the tree trunk to the ground. “These are trouble?” he muttered to himself. “I will taste this trouble, for it looks quite delicious.” The cakes were coconut cakes, and they were indeed delicious. Monkey ate every one of them.

4 “I must find more trouble! I must find more trouble!” said Monkey. Off to the market he went, skittering down the road on his quick little feet.

5 Monkey went to a man standing at a market stall and asked, “Please, kind sir, may I have some trouble?”

6 “You’re looking for trouble?” said the man. Monkey nodded his head in an excited way. The man chuckled and went into a building. He came out with a bag and handed it to Monkey. “Here you go,” he said.

7 Monkey had trouble carrying the bag of trouble. It was so large and lumpy, and it was moving! He was so happy to have more trouble, though, that he didn’t worry. He went down the road to a quiet spot and opened the bag, ready for a feast of trouble.

8 Out of the bag came three fierce little dogs! They barked and snapped and snarled at Monkey. Shaking with fear, Monkey climbed the nearest tree. How hungry he was! He took a fruit and plopped it into his mouth. Little did he know that the tree was a chili pepper tree. Suddenly his mouth felt full of fiery flames!

- 9 Monkey needed water! Below, though, those three fierce beasts were snapping and yapping at him. He had to wait until they grew bored and went away. Then Monkey quickly returned to the ground and ran, lickety-split, to a stream. He drank lots of cool water. After a while his burnt mouth felt better.
- 10 Monkey returned to his own quiet treetop and never looked for trouble again.

1 Read this sentence from the story.

Off to the market he went, skittering down the road on his quick little feet.

What does the word skittering mean in this sentence?

- A running
- B dragging
- C driving
- D crawling

2 What did Monkey do as soon as the dogs became bored and went away?

- A He looked for something delicious to eat.
- B He stayed in the chili pepper tree to sleep.
- C He climbed down the tree and ran to a stream.
- D He opened the bag to see what was inside.

3 At the END of this story, how did Monkey solve his problem?

- A He put the three dogs back into the bag.
- B He asked a man to help him.
- C He returned to the market.
- D He went back to his safe, quiet treetop.

4 Which saying BEST tells what Monkey learned in this story?

- A You cannot please everyone.
- B Be careful what you ask for.
- C Slow and steady wins the race.
- D Do not judge a book by its cover.

5 This story is BEST described as a

- A biography.
- B folktale.
- C poem.
- D riddle.

Released Test Questions

English-Language Arts

3

Design Your Own Mask**Introduction:**

Many people from all over the world enjoy making masks. They use masks when they have a celebration for special times like birthdays and holidays. Some masks look like animals. Some look like happy people. Others look like scary people. Think about a mask you could make. Here are directions for making your own mask.

What You Will Need:

- A clean, one-gallon plastic milk jug
- Paper towels or a brown paper bag
- White glue
- Sandpaper
- Paint
- Yarn, if desired

What to Do:

Step 1 With an adult's help, cut off the spout of a clean, one-gallon plastic milk jug. Cut the jug in half from the top to the bottom so that the handle is in the middle of one of the halves. The half with the handle will be the mask; the handle itself will be the nose.

Step 2 With an adult's help, cut holes for the eyes and a hole for the mouth. Use sandpaper to smooth all rough edges of the mask.

Step 3 Cover your work area. Tear paper towels or a brown paper bag into one-inch squares. Soak them for a few minutes in a bowl containing a half-and-half mixture of white glue and water. Squeeze the excess glue from the pieces, one at a time, and place them on the mask. Cover the entire front of the mask and all of the edges. Let the mask dry completely. (It may take a day or two.)

Step 4 Paint the mask and let it dry.

After You Have Finished:

You can hang the mask on a wall as a decoration or punch holes in the sides (with an adult's help), tie a piece of yarn to each hole, and wear the mask as part of a costume for a made-up drama.

6 Paragraph 1 tells you

- A what masks look like.
- B how much masks cost.
- C who made the first mask.
- D where most masks are made.

7 Which of these should you ask an adult to help you with?

- A tearing paper towels into strips
- B cutting the jug in half
- C sanding the jug carefully
- D painting the mask

8 If you wanted to place the mask on a shelf rather than wear it, you would NOT have to

- A paint the mask.
- B soak the paper.
- C dry the mask.
- D punch holes for yarn.

9 Which step takes the MOST time to do?

- A Step 1
- B Step 2
- C Step 3
- D Step 4

The following questions are not about a passage.
Read and answer each question.

10 The word wise ends in ise. Which one of these letters can be added to ise to form another word?

- A d
- B l
- C r
- D t

11 Read this sentence.

Because her legs felt _____ she was afraid she _____ fall.

Which pair of words makes the sentence correct?

- A week, might
- B weak, mite
- C week, mite
- D weak, might

12 Which word is an ANTONYM for slow?

- A noisy
- B dull
- C easy
- D quick

Released Test Questions

English-Language Arts

3

Eric's teacher asked the students to write a paragraph about starfish. Here is the first draft of Eric's paragraph, which may contain errors.

Starfish

(1) After visiting the beach, I wanted to learn about starfish. (2) Of course, starfish aren't really stars. (3) This name comes from their shape. (4) They're not fish either, though they start their lives in water pools by the seashore. (5) They can take care of themselves even when they are young. (6) Young starfish know what to eat. (7) Some starfish can later live deep in the sea, though they can't swim. (8) They move by using their legs and tube feet. (9) Large starfish also use their tube feet to grab and pull open the shells of clams and other sea animals. (10) A starfish has no head or tail, just its five legs. (11) If a leg falls off, it grows right back. (12) The amazing starfish has become my favorite animal.

13 In sentence 2, what is the subject?

- A Of course
- B starfish
- C really
- D stars

14 Which of these would be the BEST way for Eric to begin sentence 12?

- A For these reasons,
- B Then,
- C Instead,
- D For example,

15 Eric wants to learn more about different kinds of starfish. He would find MOST of his information

- A in a telephone book under "starfish."
- B in the dictionary under "starfish."
- C under the heading "starfish" in an encyclopedia article.
- D under the word "starfish" in a reference book about word choices.

The following question is not about a passage.
Read and answer the question.

16 Which sentence is written correctly?

- A On Independence Day, we'll be in washington, d.c.!
- B On independence day, we'll be in Washington, D.C.!
- C On Independence Day, we'll be in Washington, D.C.!
- D On independence Day, we'll be in washington, d.c.!

Question Number	Correct Answer	Standard	Year of Test
1	A	3RW1.6	2003
2	C	3RL3.2	2003
3	D	3RL3.2	2003
4	B	3RL3.4	2003
5	B	3RL3.1	2003
6	A	3RC2.2	2003
7	B	3RC2.7	2003
8	D	3RC2.4	2003
9	C	3RC2.7	2003
10	C	3RW1.1	2003
11	D	3RW1.4	2003
12	D	3RW1.4	2003
13	B	3WC1.2	2003
14	A	3WS1.4	2003
15	C	3WS1.3	2003
16	C	3WC1.7	2003